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EDC HW 5

One of the issues concerning modern education is difference in philosophies on how to teach students. Teaching a subject isn’t as simple as just lecturing to students, there a wide variety of different teaching methods that represent different philosophies on how to teach students. Some educational philosophies that correspond to my preferred learning style include progressivism and pragmatism. These philosophies are more modern than traditional teaching philosophies used in the past for example realism and essentialism.

Progressivism basically states that, “education should focus on the whole child, rather than on the content or the teacher.” This educational philosophy states that students should test ideas and knowledge by active experimentation. This philosophy also states that learning is rooted in the questions of learners that arise through experiencing the world. The learner is a problem solver and thinker who makes meaning through his or her individual experience in the physical and cultural context. As for the role of instructors, effective teachers should provide experiences so that students can learn by doing. Curriculum in accordance with this philosophy should have a content that is derived from student interests and questions. The reasons why I think this philosophy fits my learning ability well is that it is a straightforward way to learn. I strongly believe that doing something through experimentation portrays the subject material better than simply lecturing on how to do something. Students should be actively engaged in learning so they are more involved. An example of a way that this teaching philosophy has been used in my life was when I taught kids how to bait a hook at a fishing derby I worked at for the state over the summer. Children on the camp fieldtrip would come over and I showed them step by step on how to properly bait the lewer. I showed them how I cut up the bait and how to place the bait on the lewer so that it wouldn’t fall off easily. After I showed the kids how to do it, if they came back up a second time for bait I would make them try and bait it and most of the time they were successful but of course I was there if they needed any help. In that instance I feel that it was a more effective teaching method than if I were to just prebait the hooks which would have been more time affective and just explain how I did it to the kids. This teaching philosophy is great especially when dealing with kids. Children require experimentation and hands on activities to keep their attention, and these techniques can also be effective with students my age as well.

The other philosophy that I thought corresponded with my views is reconstructionism. This philosophy states that the role of the teacher is to be more of a facilitator or a coach as opposed to leader dominated instruction. The role of the student is to be an engaged discoverer and construct knowledge rather just being a receptacle of education. I also like how this philosophy believes that education should include the three Rs like in traditional education but also add in topics like the arts and sciences. I think it is important that we teach kids a wide variety of topics so that it is easier for the student to decide what they want to do later in life. In my learning career I always didn’t like the fact that when I were younger there was never any language or political classes offered. What we teach kids when they are young deeply impacts their interests in the future and as times change I think we need to reevaluate what we are teaching kids and building future leaders for.